



Introducing
Care About Childcare.

The shortest distance between parents and providers.



What is Care About Childcare?

(Well, the name doesn't say "care" twice for nothing.)

Everyone benefits from quality childcare—parents, providers and, most importantly, children. That's why the Utah Office of Child Care is creating Care About Childcare™, an online system (CareAboutChildcare.utah.gov) designed in partnership with the Child Care Licensing Program and Utah's Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies. Scheduled to launch in January 2012, it is intended to promote quality childcare and to help parents locate licensed providers in their area. The website will also provide links to childcare and child development resources for parents, grandparents and providers. The new system will be announced to the public via an advertising campaign in April 2012.

Childcare providers
don't like to brag.
That's what our website is for.

With CareAboutChildcare.utah.gov, parents will be able to find your facility and evaluate it based on your strengths and their needs. Every licensed center and licensed family/home provider will have a profile page on CareAboutChildcare.utah.gov. On this page, providers can upload a statement about their program philosophy, pictures of their program and links to their Facebook page, blog or website. The following will also be included:

- Care type
- Hours of operation
- Location
- Ages accepted
- Vacancies
- School districts served
- Transportation
- Preschool program
- Years of operation
- Special schedules
- The ability to provide care for special needs children
- Accreditation
- Licensing history for the previous 24 months
(including cited findings, substantiated complaints, facility status, finding text, date corrected and rule text)





You work hard
to provide quality childcare.
Now you can prove it.

Each provider profile page will also feature seven Quality Indicator tabs: Family Involvement, Outdoor Environment, Indoor Environment, Administration, Health & Safety, The Program and Professional Development.*

Providers that have been licensed for six months or longer will be able to apply for up to 20 criteria under each Quality Indicator. Once a provider's application has been received and the criteria have been verified (through documents, pictures and inventories submitted by the provider), the criteria will be listed under the corresponding Quality Indicator tabs for parents to view.

PLEASE NOTE: In order for providers to display any criteria that will be associated with the various Quality Indicators, providers must be in substantial compliance with childcare licensing. Substantial compliance will be defined as an absence of civil money penalties and/or the issuance of a conditional license for the previous six months.

*This Quality Indicator is not described in this brochure, but it is a snapshot of the provider's training registry information.

Sample criteria for Quality Indicators:



Family Involvement

1. Program has a written plan on how parents can share their knowledge about their children's interests, strengths, concerns and goals
2. Program invites new families to spend time at the facility to become familiar with the environment prior to enrollment
3. Parents are given the opportunity to participate in the planning of activities, curriculum ideas and/or menu options for the children
4. Cultures of all families are represented in books, décor and curriculum materials
5. Program asks families who do not speak English as a first language to share their language (i.e., labeling of personal items, simple instructions, encouraging phrases, etc. in the child's primary language)



Outdoor Environment

1. There are portable outdoor gross motor materials for infants, toddlers and preschoolers (riding/push toys, balls, tunnels, etc.) accessible on a daily basis
2. At least 1/3 of play area is covered in natural material (grass, wood chips, etc.)
3. There is a playhouse with props for pretend play
4. There is a table or easel for art activities accessible daily
5. There are quiet spaces for children to relax, protected from active play



Indoor Environment

1. Children are able to choose from at least three different activities during free choice times.
The quantity and variety of materials and equipment offered is sufficient to provide all children with age appropriate play and learning opportunities
2. There is personalized storage for children's belongings
3. Some children's art work and other appropriate materials are displayed at child eye level
4. Soft surfaces, materials and cozy area are accessible in areas used for play
5. There is open space for active physical play inside (i.e., safe space for infants to crawl/explore, older children to dance)



Administration

1. Written handbook for parents that includes program philosophy, teaching methods and goals
2. Signed contract with each family, that includes the financial agreement as well as policies and procedures for the program
3. Annual opportunity for parents to evaluate the program and recommend changes to curriculum, policies, etc.
4. Documentation of a non-discrimination policy for both staff and families
5. Written grievance procedure for parent(s) of enrolled child



Health & Safety

1. Program serves fresh fruits and vegetables daily
2. Drinking water available both indoors and outdoors throughout each day
3. Adults and children wash hands upon arrival and when re-entering the program or classroom
4. Outdoor activity play time is scheduled daily for at least 60 minutes. Program uses weather chart to determine "weather permitting" conditions
5. Caregiver has curriculum plans that encourage good health practices for the child such as oral health, nutrition, going to the doctor, hand washing, exercise, etc.



The Program

1. Program uses observations to assess children's strengths and interests
2. Program has curriculum plans that include activities that support individual children's developmental goals and interests
3. Program has a plan in place to adapt the program to meet the needs of children with special needs
4. Program has materials that reflect the lives of their children and families, as well as the diversity found in society. This would include gender, ages, ethnicity, and ability
5. The Director or Owner of the program is a member of a professional organization such as UAEYC, UPCCA, PFCCA.

For more information, visit
facebook.com/careaboutchildcare,
or call The Child Care Professional Development Institute at
855-531-2468 (toll free).



CareAboutChildcare.utah.gov

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